

**Remarks:**

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1–4 and 6–7 were previously pending with claims 1 and 3 being independent. Claims 1 and 3 are presently amended, and new claims 8–10 are added. Therefore, claims 1–4 and 6–10 are currently pending with claims 1 and 3 being independent.

In the Office Action dated April 14, 2008, claims 1–4 and 6–7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wyatt, U.S. Patent No. 6,490,530.

**The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

***Claim 1***

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “deploying a plurality of remote sensing units and a control unit adapted to automatically identify the substance and to provide a corresponding report, wherein *the report comprises an image of the substance.*” (Emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the detailed description at page 14, line 32 – page 15, line 1, among other places.

The prior art cited in the Office Action does not teach or suggest each element of claim 1. Wyatt, for example, does not teach or suggest providing a corresponding report comprising an image of the substance. Rather, Wyatt discloses that an aerosol cloud is tracked over a region, and that “[f]rom such threat analyses, the central station warning and alarm processor 22 sends updated information by alarm telemetry means 23 to various civil, police, emergency, and other agencies responsible for population health and safety . . .” (Wyatt, col. 13, line 66–col. 14, line 3, emphasis added). Thus, Wyatt discloses communicating a warning and an alarm to response entities, and not providing a corresponding report, “wherein the report comprises an image of the substance,” as recited in claim 1.

**Claim 3**

Turning now to the rejection of claim 3, independent claim 3 has been amended to recite "wherein the report includes a magnified image of the substance." Support for the amendment is found in the detailed description at page 15, lines 1-4, among other places.

As discussed above, Wyatt does not teach or suggest providing a corresponding report comprising a magnified image of the substance. Rather, Wyatt discloses that an aerosol cloud is tracked over a region, and that "[f]rom such threat analyses, the central station warning and alarm processor 22 sends updated information by alarm telemetry means 23 to various civil, police, emergency, and other agencies responsible for population health and safety . . ." (Wyatt, col. 13, line 66–col. 14, line 3, emphasis added). Thus, Wyatt discloses communicating a warning and an alarm to response entities, and not providing a corresponding report, "wherein the report comprises a magnified image of the substance," as recited in claim 1.

**New Claims**

New claims 8-10 additionally are not disclosed in the prior art. Specifically, claim 8 is dependent on claim 1 and discloses that "the image of the substance is a microscope-magnified image." As discussed above in reference to claim 3, support for this amendment is found in the detailed description at page 15, lines 1-4, among other places.

Claim 9 is dependent on claim 1 and claims a method step of "collecting the substance with a sample examination cassette including: a roll of filter paper for receiving the substance; a roll of film providing an impermeable barrier for isolating the substance; and an archive spool for collecting the roll of filter paper and the roll of film." Support for this amendment is found in the detailed description at page 13, lines 17-30, among other places. The prior art does not teach or suggest collecting the substance with an examination cassette.

Claim 10 is dependent on claim 1 and claims that the remote sensing units

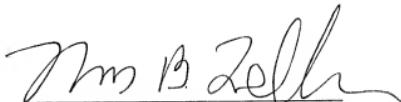
are deployed at a distance by an airdrop, balloon, or robot. Support for this amendment is found in the detailed description at page 29, lines 2-4, among other places. The prior art does not teach or suggest using such means to deploy a remote sensing unit. Rather, as discussed in reference to Fig. 3, Wyatt discloses affixing the detector stations to outer building surfaces (Col. 13, Lns 30-35). The term "deployed" as used in Wyatt refers to the detector stations being placed in or affixed to various locations, but does not teach or suggest deploying the sensing units from one location to another location, such as from a plane to a ground position in an airdrop.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 6-10 are in allowable condition and requests a Notice of Allowance. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,  
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